



News Release

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Utah Hospitals Perform Well in Latest Comparison Reports *Maternity, heart failure, and pneumonia care continue to excel*

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Having accurate and reliable information about health care providers is more important than ever with today's economic uncertainty. Today the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Health Data Committee released its annual reports comparing hospitals on maternity and newborns, hip and knee care, heart and stroke care, and pneumonia care.

The reports compare Utah hospitals in these treatment areas based on charges, quality, and patient safety. Readers can make comparisons of hospital performance factors like in-hospital deaths, average charges, and how frequently each hospital performs certain procedures.

Utah hospitals performed favorably when compared to similar patients nationwide in several quality and patient safety measures, including newborn injuries, injuries to mothers during delivery, heart failure and pneumonia. In each of the previous three comparison reports, Utah hospitals have performed better than similar hospitals nationwide in the following areas:

| Hospital Measure | UT vs. U.S. in last three reports |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Heart Failure | Lower than expected deaths |
| Pneumonia | Lower than expected deaths |
| Obstetric Injuries w/o Instrument | Lower rate of injuries to the mother |
| Obstetric Injuries w/Instrument | Lower rate of injuries to the mother |
| Newborn Injuries | Lower rate of injuries to the newborn |

The majority of Utah hospitals (25 out of 39) at which 30 or more babies were born had fewer than expected injuries to the newborn for the years 2005 through 2007. Two hospitals (LDS and St. Mark's) had a lower percentage of deaths than expected for treating stroke. McKay-Dee Hospital Center experienced a lower rate of expected deaths for heart bypass surgery, while LDS Hospital had lower than expected deaths for heart attack. A large majority of Utah hospitals had about the

- MORE -

Page 2 of 2 – UDOH Releases Annual Hospital Comparison Reports

same percentage of deaths as expected nationally for heart failure, balloon angioplasty, hip replacement, hip fracture, and pneumonia.

Most, but not all, Utah hospitals performed as well as similar patients nationwide in treating heart and stroke patients. From 2005-2007, Salt Lake Regional Medical Center experienced a higher percentage of deaths related to heart bypass surgery. Davis Hospital had higher than expected deaths for heart failure, while Uintah Basin Medical Center had higher than expected deaths when treating stroke patients. To ensure valid conclusions, hospitals that treated fewer than 30 patients were not included in the analysis of the quality and patient safety indicators.

Average hospital charge for the report measures differed widely among hospitals in 2007. Many factors can affect how much a patient pays including whether the person has health insurance, the type of insurance or the billing procedures at the hospital. For reporting hospitals treating five or more patients at the minor/moderate severity of illness level, average hospital charges ranged from:

| Utah Hospital Charges, 2007 | Lowest Average Charge | Highest Average Charge | Utah Average |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Normal Newborn | \$1,000 | \$2,207 | \$1,712 |
| Cesarean Delivery | \$5,697 | \$13,963 | \$8,243 |
| Hip Joint Replacement | \$22,708 | \$43,874 | \$32,467 |
| Knee Joint Replacement | \$22,170 | \$47,512 | \$29,866 |
| Heart Failure | \$3,124 | \$15,098 | \$10,491 |
| Stroke | \$5,477 | \$17,995 | \$13,027 |
| Pneumonia | \$5,294 | \$12,606 | \$9,417 |

As noted in the reports, average hospital charge for patients treated at the major/extreme severity of illness level was higher. Average charges do not include physicians' professional fees or other personal costs that the patient may have to pay.

The Committee anticipates releasing updates to these comparison reports in 2009. All reports can be accessed at <http://health.utah.gov/myhealthcare>.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.